

**SAN MATEO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
1250 SAN CARLOS AVENUE, SAN CARLOS, CA 94070**

MINUTES – APRIL 2, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT: C. Groom R. Foust (Chair), J. Lee, K. Matsumoto, R. O’Mahony,
J. Vreeland

MEMBERS ABSENT: R. Gordon

STAFF PRESENT: G. Cameron, V. Harrington, C. Harvey, R. Haskin, J. Hurley, R. Lake,
M. Martinez, I. McAvoy, N. McKenna, D. Miller, S. Murphy, M. Scanlon,
M. Simon

Chair Rosanne Foust called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. Director Karyl Matsumoto led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. Approval of Minutes of March 5, 2009
- b. Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenses for February 2009.

Director Rosalie O’Mahony said that in the first sentence on Page Two of the minutes, \$10.7 should read \$10.7 million.

A motion (O’Mahony/Vreeland) to approve the consent calendar with this correction to the minutes was passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Bigelow, Redwood City/San Mateo County Chamber of Commerce, distributed a letter from the Chamber to the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA). He said \$8 billion is available for High Speed Rail (HSR) in addition to \$1 billion a year from 2010 to 2014. He said it would have been better if the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between CHSRA and Caltrain had been done earlier to smooth out some of the HSR difficulties that were created during scoping meetings.

Chair Foust thanked Mr. Bigelow for sending this letter out because Redwood City started their partnership academy for community teamwork in Redwood City and Chair Foust received questions on HSR from some of the participants. She was able to reference this letter and to know there is ongoing dialogue with all the councils in the 17 cities that are on the rail line.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) REPORT

Mr. Bigelow reported on the March 31, 2009 meeting on behalf of Chair Pat Dixon:

- The CAC Received a presentation on the Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance (Alliance).
- Members discussed details of TA board items including the Statement of Revenues and Expenses for February 2009, policy discussion on the City of South San Francisco’s request for funding of ferry service, state and federal legislative issues, allocation of \$15,000 to the Alliance and award of contract for TA program management services.
- Nancy Stern will not be reapplying to the CAC; recruitment is ongoing for vacancies on the CAC.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – ROSANNE FOUST

Policy Discussion: South San Francisco Request for Funding of Ferry Service

Chief Development Officer Ian McAvoy provided the update:

- There may be a delay in the project from late 2010 to late 2011 caused by a combination of the availability of state funds and project construction cycles on the San Francisco Bay.
- The Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) has scheduled public hearings on the draft Emergency Water Transportation System Management Plan on April 15 in San Francisco and Vallejo and April 16 in Alameda. Details are on the Web at watertransit.org.

Director O'Mahony asked if this encumbers the funds that were set aside by the TA for the WETA project. Mr. McAvoy said it does not.

Director Jim Vreeland asked about the TA contract that was presented to WETA several months ago and asked if WETA has acted on it. Executive Director Michael Scanlon said the TA worked with WETA to expedite construction during the specific construction season allowed on the San Francisco Bay. WETA's Web site indicated construction would be delayed a year because construction didn't take place during the appropriate time frame.

Director Vreeland suggested sending a letter to WETA indicating the TA would like to work with WETA on the current contract to move the project along. Mr. McAvoy said this could be done and regular communication is important because WETA is also in a transition period of reorganization.

Director Vreeland said it would be nice to have one of the WETA public hearings in South San Francisco or Pacifica because the TA is a partner in the ferry project. Mr. McAvoy will contact WETA to request a public hearing in San Mateo County.

SAMTRANS LIAISON REPORT – KARYL MATSUMOTO

The March 3 and March 11, 2009 reports are in the agenda packet.

Director Matsumoto said Planning and Development Director Marian Lee did an outstanding job moderating the March 3 special meeting on the Strategic Plan.

JOINT POWERS BOARD REPORT (JPB)

Mr. Scanlon reported on the April 2, 2009 meeting:

1. The meeting was held in the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisor's Chambers.
2. Approved the minutes of March 5, 2009 and accepted the statement of Revenues and Expenses for February 2009.
3. Recruitment will begin on April 13 for JPB CAC vacancies.
4. Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) liaison Sue Lempert said agency plans are being revised due to revenue projections with the challenging economy.
5. The CAC did not meet in March due to the lack of a quorum.
6. Year-to-date Performance Statistics ending February 2009:
 - Total Ridership was 8,574,536, an increase of 11.8 percent.
 - Average Weekday Ridership was 40,651, an increase of 11.5 percent.
 - Total Revenue was \$28,927,967, an increase of 12.6 percent.
 - On time Performance was 94.9 percent, an increase of 1.8 percent.
 - Caltrain Shuttle Ridership was 6,210, an increase of 21.2 percent.

7. All partner agencies are loosing money from the State Transit Assistance (STA) fund. The JPB will be asked to consider a draft at its May meeting for a fiscal emergency.
8. Received a progress report on the bicycle service.
9. Annual passenger counts are scheduled for presentation in June.
10. No major complaints were received from schedule changes implemented to better accommodate construction work.
11. There were no major complaints on the transition from the 10-ride to 8-ride ticket.
12. The baseball service to AT&T Park begins tonight; the Dodgers are in town on April 5 and the season opener against Milwaukee is scheduled for April 7.
13. The February 2009 Safety and Security report is included in the reading file.
14. Staff submitted the updated Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to the Federal Transit Administration for the Electrification Project.
15. Authorized an agreement between the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB) and the CHSRA establishing a cooperative partnership for rail projects on the Caltrain right of way.
16. Adopted a parking violation fine schedule for citations issued at JPB parking facilities.
17. Government Affairs Manager Seamus Murphy reported on state and federal legislation.
18. The next board meeting is scheduled for May 7 at the District administrative offices in San Carlos.

Director John Lee asked what the parking fine would be. Mr. Scanlon said most fines would be \$45. Handicapped parking fines would be \$325 and abandoned vehicle fines would be \$100.

Chair Foust requested the HSR agreement be emailed to Board members. She said City/County Association of Governments (C/CAG) Executive Director Rich Napier offered support and assistance for public outreach.

Chair Foust asked if the City of Palo Alto has decided to file an amicus brief concerning the HSR alignment. Mr. Scanlon said there would be a brief filed consistent with what Atherton and Menlo Park have litigated but it may have missed the filing deadline.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. McAvoy reported

Council action by the City of Menlo Park:

- The City Council of Menlo Park reconsidered the TA's transit-oriented development (TOD) grant for the Dumbarton rail line station. The TA was not consulted in terms of its role in this issue. The city council discussed three alternatives:
 1. Continue with the planning area grant for TOD associated with the Dumbarton Rail Corridor; the grants for the study include in excess of \$200,000 from MTC money and \$75,000 from the TA.
 2. Abandon the TOD project and look at a mixture of housing and office/big-box retail development focused on expansion of a business park in the area.
 3. Work with the three private landowners in the project area to provide money for an alternate study to focus more on the development of office parks in the area.
- The city council decided to pursue option three.
- The city council instructed staff to develop a proposal to reach out to MTC and the TA to see if the agencies would be willing to relax TA contract conditions to allow the city to follow option three and retain the assigned grant funds.

- The change in the grant focus creates problems with regards to moving forward with the Dumbarton Rail Project because one of the main issues on the project was that MTC wants to make sure these types of projects conform to land use policies that encourage mixed-use development along rail lines.
- The JPB, as the project sponsor, is concerned that there has been a change of planning surrounding land use.
- The TA will be reaching out to the City of Menlo Park to discuss next steps.

Chair Foust said she spoke with Menlo Park Councilwoman Kelly Fergusson and said the TA Board will want to review this issue to see if it falls within guidelines of providing the funding.

Director Carole Groom said this is a serious issue because there are a number of organizations in the county, including the Housing Leadership Council, that have been working very hard on TOD to meet Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) housing numbers and create affordable housing along the rail corridor.

Director Jim Vreeland suggested this item be agendized; the change in grant conditions could be inconsistent with AB32 (Global Warming Act). Chair Foust said it could also be inconsistent with SB375, which links regional transportation plans to state greenhouse government related goals.

Mr. Scanlon suggested more communication in order to get all facts relating to the issue.

Mr. McAvoy said MTC Commissioners Adrienne Tissier and Sue Lempert are aware of the issue. He said the GM and old TYCO sites may be up for sale and there may be an opportunity for the TA to look at land use in that area as well.

Electrification:

Project Manager Rick Schmedes will be presenting Caltrain electrification updates to the Burlingame City Council on May 4 and to the San Mateo City Council on May 18. A presentation to the South San Francisco City Council is pending confirmation.

Chair Foust thanked Mr. Schmedes for his excellent presentation to the Redwood City City Council on March 23 and posted the information on the city Web site.

FINANCE

Allocation of \$15,000 to the Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance (Alliance) from Transportation Systems Management (TSM) Funds of the Fiscal Year 2009 Operating Budget

Mr. Hurley said approval of this allocation will enable the Alliance to fund development of a strategic plan to evaluate its organizational structure, mission statements, vision, key goals and effectiveness of its Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies. Funding totals \$20,000 from the Alliance, \$15,000 from C/CAG and \$15,000 from the TA.

Public Comment

Alliance Chair Diane Howard thanked the Board for considering the funding request for development of a strategic plan. She said the Alliance is the Transit Demand Management agency for San Mateo County working with employers, employees and the community at large to provide shuttles and incentives for public transit to get people out of their vehicles and drive less in San Mateo County.

Director Lee asked about a timeline for the project. Ms. Howard said the Alliance is working with Corrine Goodrich, Manager, Strategic Development, and she has provided contacts to develop a request for proposal with the goal to get the strategic plan completed by November 2009.

A motion (Groom/O'Mahony) to approve the allocation of \$15,000 to the Alliance was passed.

Authorize Award of Contract to PBS & J to Provide Program Management Services for a Total Not-to-Exceed Cost of \$20,000,000 for a Five-Year Period

Chief Administrative Officer George Cameron said award of this contract will provide the Authority with program management services that will support the Authority with the delivery of capital projects and programs. There is no guaranteed level of work under this contract.

A motion (O'Mahony/Groom) to award the contract for program management services for \$20,000,000 over a five-year period was approved.

PROGRAM

Legislative Report

Mr. Murphy presented the following:

State

- A Caltrans-sponsored bill passed last week that governs how some of the stimulus funds are allocated throughout the state. The net result is that Caltrans retains some American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding and authorized 57 State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) projects to be funded with these funds including \$4.4 million for resurfacing of Highway 101 in San Mateo County from Oyster Point Boulevard to the San Francisco county line.
- In addition to ARRA funds already received, MTC received an additional \$160 million proposed backfill Proposition 1B projects including the Caldecott Tunnel, Marin I-580/US 101 connector, I-580 High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes and I-680 HOV lanes. ARRA funding of these MTC projects will free up existing Proposition 1B funding capacity and MTC will be able to begin a new programming cycle when the funds become available. Funding may be opened up to new projects to award either under the Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA) program or possibly under transit programs.
- AB116 is a San Mateo County Transit District/Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA)-sponsored bill that would raise the General Manager contract and procurement threshold authority from \$25,000 to \$100,000, consistent with other agencies around the state.

Director Groom asked for an explanation of AB1375. Mr. Murphy said this is a HSR-related bill at the state level and would put administrative and technical authority for HSR implementation under the state Business, Transportation and Housing Agency within the Division of Rail. It would preserve the HSR Authority as the policy-making body for HSR but it would then have an administrative body under the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency. CHSRA is supportive of this bill. Two other bills by Senators Denise Ducheny and Ray Ashburn would reorganize the CHSRA in an unknown and unspecified way. Mr. Murphy said there is a lot of anxiety right now about how HSR funding will be spent with \$8 billion available in stimulus funds, \$1 billion per year over the next five years from President Obama's budget and \$10 billion approved statewide by the voters last November.

Chair Foust said when the ARRA talks about shovel-ready projects it talks about meeting compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). California has the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and everything she has read to date says there would need to be some clarifying

legislation because CEQA is more stringent than NEPA. Mr. Murphy said you have to have NEPA in order to receive stimulus funds even if you have CEQA.

Federal

Congresswoman Jackie Speier and Senator Diane Feinstein's Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) legislation deals with the losses that San Mateo County experienced because of the Lehman Brothers collapse. The TA portion of those losses was approximately \$25 million. The legislation would authorize the Treasury to reimburse local governments approximately \$2 billion nationwide for those losses.

Mr. Murphy talked about bringing on legislative advocates at the state and federal levels specifically for the TA. The existing SamTrans contracts were amended so SamTrans advocates at the state and federal level now represent the TA through the end of the year. The TA will begin a request for proposals in the fall to bring permanent advocates onboard for the TA.

Director Vreeland left at 6:01 p.m.

Program Report: TSM/Alternative Congestion Relief

Mr. McAvoy introduced Christine Maley-Grubl, Executive Director of the Alliance to present program details.

Ms. Maley-Grubl reported the following:

1. The Alliance was established in 2000 and is San Mateo County's TDM Agency, funded by the TA and C/CAG.
2. The mission is to reduce the number of single occupant vehicles in order to improve air quality, which is accomplished through marketing of TDM to county commuters, local employers and residents.
3. Marketing efforts in 2007-2008 increased shuttle route operations; generated greater awareness of the Alliance and increased employer participation.
4. The Alliance manages 19 shuttle routes utilizing 24 vehicles.
5. New routes include Redwood City's on-demand shuttle, Bayshore/Brisbane Caltrain shuttle and one shuttle for on-demand taxi service.
6. There were 513,000 boardings in Fiscal Year 2008, which eliminated 450,000 single-occupancy vehicle trips; ridership increased 10.7 percent compared to July-December 2007.
7. Marketing and outreach efforts include:
 - a) Try Transit Program with distribution of 3,600 tickets.
 - b) Carpool Incentive Program with a one-time incentive of a \$60 gas card per passenger, which has had over 5,000 participants since 2003.
 - c) Bike Safety Workshops and rack/locker incentives that provides a maximum of \$500 per locker or rack to employers, cities, and schools to install bike parking, which has provided 48 bike racks and 29 lockers in FY 07/08.
 - d) Vanpool incentives provide \$500 cash to vanpool drivers who drive for six months, or \$80 per month for three months to vanpool riders. Eighty-two subsidies have been provided to vanpool drivers or riders.
 - e) Fifty-four employers participate in the Emergency Ride Home Program, which pays 75 percent of the cost of a taxi or rental car to an employee/employer who participates in voucher program for an emergency ride from work.
 - f) Outreach included program exhibitions at 64 employer fairs and nine community fairs and participation in Earth Day events.

- g) Promotional outreach materials include quarterly newsletters, distribution of brochures, English and Spanish Bicycle Safety Booklets, Carpool Incentive Program brochure and materials for employers to establish TDM programs.
- 8. Bike to Work Day is scheduled for May 14, 2009; there were 3,068 participants in 2008.
- 9. Hits to the Alliance Website (commute.org) increased 18 percent over FY 06/07, which is attributed to easier access to information, updated key word search, updated registration on Search Engines and use by users for specific programs.
- 10. Thanked the TA staff for all of their support. She also thanked Alliance Chair Ms. Howard for attending on behalf of the Alliance.

Chair Foust thanked Ms. Maley-Grubl for the wonderful work the Alliance provides and for an example of an excellent investment of tax dollars.

Director Matsumoto said cities need to hear more about one of the best programs the Alliance: TDM program assistance with cities that have new developments.

REQUESTS FROM THE AUTHORITY

No requests.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO AUTHORITY

Correspondence included letters from the Redwood City, San Mateo County Chamber of Commerce to the California HSR Authority with comments relating to the EIR/EIS scoping comments.

REPORT OF LEGAL COUNSEL

No report

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Thursday, May 7, 2009 at 5 p.m. at the San Mateo County Transit District Administrative Building, Bacciocco Auditorium, 2nd Floor, 1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos CA 94070.

The meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.